

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 09104 280517Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 ITC-01
CTME-00 /092 W

-----009550 280538Z /15

R 280344Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2259

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7309

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: RTG IMPOSES CONTROLS ON SUGAR INDUSTRY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT;
OTHER SECTORS MAY BE AFFECTED IN THE FUTURE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE BANK OF THAILAND HAS ANNOUNCED THAT CERTAIN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE SUGAR INDUSTRY WILL BE SUBJECT TO SCREENING BY THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND THE BANK OF THAILAND. THE MEASURE WAS INTRODUCED TO LIMIT THE IMPORT OF THESE GOODS TO THE "NECESSARY LEVEL." PRESS REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY IS PREPARING OTHER LISTS FOR IMPORT CONTROL. HOWEVER, A BANK OF THAILAND SOURCE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH LIST, AFFIRMING ONLY THAT THE SUGAR INDUSTRY WAS THE ONLY INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY THIS MEASURE.

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2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ITEMS CARRIED ON THE BANK OF THAILAND LIST: CANE CUTTERS, CANE SHREDDERS, CANE MILLS, STEAM TURBINES VACUUM PANS, CENTRIFUGES, AUTOMATIC CONTROLS TO BE USED WITH THE SPEED REDUCER, CYDROLYZERS, ACCUMULATORS, EVAPORATORS, CRYSTALLIZERS, CLARIFIERS, AND ROTARY VACUUM FILTERS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE BANK OF THAILAND SOURCE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER IMPORT LIMITATIONS, THE PRESS ACCOUNT WAS RATHER SPECIFIC IN FORECASTING ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS. THIS IS POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF AN UNAUTHORIZED LEAK, AND FURTHER LIMITATIONS ARE PROBABLY IN THE WORKS. THERE APPEARS TO BE AN OVERCAPACITY IN THE LOCAL SUGAR INDUSTRY AND THEREFORE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WOULD ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO UNMARKETABLE SURPLUSES. IF FURTHER LIMITATIONS WERE IMPOSED ON CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR OTHER OVEREXTENDED INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS TEXTILES, THIS SCREENING WOULD FURTHER REDUCE THAILAND'S BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT AND, IF WELL CONCEIVED, ASSURE MORE RATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE SEE THE DANGER OF ARBITRARY CONTROLS BECOMING THE ACCEPTED NORM WITH THE ATTENDANT PROBLEMS OF IRRATIONAL JUDGMENTS AND CORRUPTION AFFECTING THE DECISION PROCESS. WE THEREFORE AWAIT WITH INTEREST WHAT MAY DEVELOP FROM THIS NEW MOVE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 405d81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: EFIN, TH
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